time from various parts of the country for setting up LPG distributorships and petrol/diesel retail outlets. After survey, locations meeting the Industry norms are included in the Marketing Plans for opening of RO dealerships/LPG distributorships.

(c) 15 ROs and one LPG distributorship proposals have been included in the current RO Marketing Plan for 1988—93 and LPG Marketing Plan 1992—94, for Himachal Pradesh as under:—

Retail Outlet Dealerships	LPB Distributorship
1. Ghagas	1. Shimla
2. Sujanpur Tihra	
3. Hamirpur	
4. Draman	
5. Alampur	
6. Patlikut	
7. Sarchu	
8. Nerchowk	
9. Shimla-bye-pass	
10. Kotkhai	
11. Sataun	
12. Ponta Sahib	
13. Una	
14. Kunihar	
15. Dalihara	

Order to Supply Welded Pipes by M/s. Saw Pipes

1234. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Saw Pipes have recently received an order for Rs. 88 crores for welded pipes from ONGC, if so, what are its details;

(b) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and ONGC have considered the performance of Saw Pipes in the case of welded pipes which are imported by them;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether M/s. Saw Pipes which work very closely with M/s. P. J. Pipes (P) Limited get a 15 per cent (Deemed Export) as indigenous manufacturer; and

(e) if so, what are the facts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Saw ONGC had placed an order in January, 1993 on M/s-Saw Pipes Ltd. for supply of 47.74 Kms. of 42" and 30" line pipes for the Second Bassien Hazira Trunk Pipeline Project at a contract price of about Rs. 82.34 crores.

(b) and (c) Supplies against the order are yet to commence.

(d) and (e) Deemed Export Benefits are available to indigenous suppliers for making supplies to ONGC as per the provisions of the Export Import Policy 1992—97.

Use of Imported Naptha for Petrochemical Complexes

1235. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present policy of Government permits use of imported naptha for petrochemical complexes;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the proposal of Karnataka Government regarding use of naptha in the project Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals is still pending;

(c) the reasons for the delay: and

(d) what action is being taken to clear the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Based on the demand-supply scenario, a petrochemical complex at Mangalore refinery was not found feasible.

Expert Group to Augment Supplies of Natural Gas

1236. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an expert group to look into various options of augmenting the supplies of Natural Gas in country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) An Expert Group headed by Chairman,

EIL and consisting of representatives from Planning Commission. GAIL. ONGC. IOC and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been constituted to examine the various offers received for import of natural gas. with a view to augmenting the supplies of natural gas in the country.

Oil Refinery in Joint Sector

1237. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER . Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set-up Oil refinery in joint sector involving IOC and private sector or with foreign investmet in U.P. and Bihar during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any offer in this regard from any private sector/ foreign sector;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any decision has been taken so far;

(d) if so, what are the details of the decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Suspension of Chairman of IOC

1238. SHRI P. UPENDRA
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation has recently been suspended;

(b) what are the reasons for this drastic action;

(c) whether any inquiry into the matter has been instituted, if so, the results of the inquiry; and

(d) whether this is related to the Snam Progetti's attempt to re-enter the race for the Kandla-Bhatinda contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various complaints of grave misconduct have been received against the Chairman, IOC. After preliminary enquiry and on the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, the CBI has registered a case for investigation.

(d) No, Sir.

Applicability of T. V. A. to L. D. O.

1239. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND N ATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Temperature Variation Allowance which was not applicable to the supply of Light Diesel Oil (L.D.O.) was made applicable under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation has been directed to pay compensation to the buyers for consignments supplied before September 25, 1992; and

(c) if not, why and whether the Indian Oil Corporation is now properly adhering to the norms of the Temperature Variation Allowance with regard to the Light Diesel Oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Temperature Variation Allowance on LDO has been allowed by Government with effect from 25th September, 1992 in consultation with Indian Oil Corporation.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is acting according to the Ministry's guidelines.

Norms of Laving of Oil and Gas Pipelines

1240. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Indian Express of 26th May, 1993 stating that Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) is not following norms in laying of oil and gas pipelines; and

(b) tf so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.